GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2138
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Pollution in Delhi
Kishore Shri Kaushal;Munde Dr.Pritam Gopinath;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi has been described as the most polluted capital of the world and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(b) whether the Government has held a meeting with the stakeholders to discuss measures to control the rising levels of air pollution;
(c) if so, the details therof indicating the names of states which participated therein along with the issues discussed and response of the State Government thereon;
(d) whether any discussion was also held for strict enforcement of statutory directions issued by CPCB under Section 18(1) (b) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on December 29, 2015 and the directions were issued on November 2, 2016 to 22 local bodies of NCR and if so, the detials and status of implementation of the said decisions; and
(e) the other steps taken by the Government to control the worsening situation of pollution in the country particularly in the Capital and NCR?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) The methodology for calculation of pollution index in various parts of world is not same. Cities can be ranked on the basis of different criteria pollutants with different results. An ambient air pollution database released by the World Health Organisation in May 2016 indicates that 10 Indian cities including Delhi fall among top 20 most polluted cities in the world in respect of PM2.5 (particulate matter) which is based on extrapolation of data relating to PM10 to arrive at PM2.5 data based on conversion factors in respect of cities where PM2.5 data is not measured. Therefore, care has to be exercised before drawing any inference.

(b) to (d) The Central Government held meetings on 4th November, 2016 and 7th November, 2016 with State Governments of Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Delhi and discussed the remedial measures for control of air pollution. Such measure, inter alia, include strict enforcement of statutory directions issued on 29.12.2015 and 02.11.2016; action against visibly polluting vehicles; overloaded vehicles and parking in non-designated areas; strengthening of Pollution Under Control (PUC) regimes; promotion of public transport system through expeditious expansion of metro rail and procurement of additional buses; sprinkling of water on dusty roads; introduction of wet/mechanized vacuum sweeping of roads, maintenance of pothole free roads, black topping/pavement of road shoulders; greening of open areas of gardens and community places; closure of brick kilns operating on obsolete technologies during the winter season; strict implementation of dust control measures at construction and demolition sites; avoiding rampant onsite bitumen burning; joint inspection by Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards of 17 categories of highly polluting industries located in NCR; strict enforcement of notified standards for DG sets; appropriate utilization of funds related to Environmental Compensation Charge and Diesel cess by Government of NCT of Delhi including funding of proposal in neighboring States for incentivizing farm machinery; forwarding the proposal for financial assistance submitted by State Governments to Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare for funding of equipment; setting up of bio-mass power plants by Governments of Punjab and Haryana; strict enforcement of ban on stubble burning by State Governments; tapping resources under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for measures to control stubble burning and review of progress of action taken on measures to control pollution on monthly basis by Chairman CPCB and quarterly basis by Ministry; etc.

(e) The Government has taken several other steps to curb pollution in Delhi and NCR which inter alia include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations / statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending etc.; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017;leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules and notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) emission / effluent monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10 PM to 6 AM etc.

***